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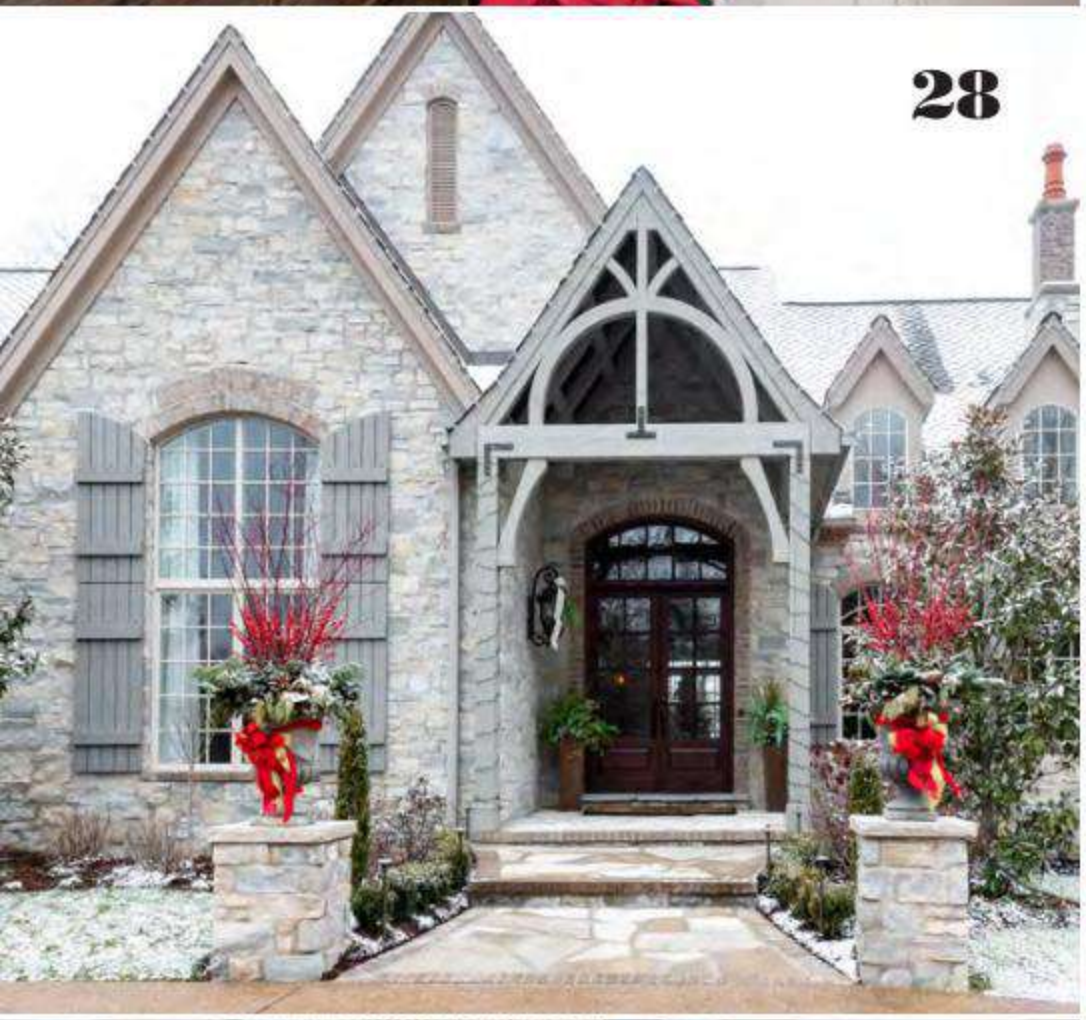

CONTENTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021 – The Holiday Issue

FEATURES

20 INFUSED WITH CHRISTMAS

An empty nester and her design team blend the holidays into her home.

28 CELEBRATING FAMILY

The Bacichs use their shared love of the Christmas season to enjoy time decorating together.

38 HOLIDAY WONDERLAND

Rusted Chandelier's Patti Porter enhances an already magnificent home with her special seasonal touches.

DEPARTMENTS

4 Publisher's letter
8 Fab Finds
18 Artisian
50 The Dirt
52 The Insider
54 Bright Idea
60 Spotlight
62 Sights
66 Shaws Vision
68 Small Scale
72 Connect
80 Classic or Craze

On the cover page 44.

Fraser, a Scottish fold, snuggles amidst a throw on the sectional.

Photography by Anne Matheis.

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"Humans are social beings, and we are happier, and better, when connected to others."

—Paul Bloom

Soon we will be roasting Chestnuts on the open fire! On location at Blue Dahlia. Photography by Colin Miller/Strauss Peyton

It's hard to believe that we've got another year behind us. COVID is still nipping at our heels, but it's better than last year. There are several vaccines available to us, and there is a pill that is almost ready to be approved to treat COVID if we are unlucky enough to catch it. There is definitely light at the end of the tunnel.

It was great to see so many of you at the Luxury Home Tour this past weekend. For those that couldn't make it, attendees viewed the latest in architectural design and building practices. Ever wonder what those cool condos in downtown Kirkwood look like on the inside? Well, we had one on the tour! It not only had superb craftsmanship throughout but also cutting-edge technology. Imagine waking up in the morning and saying "Good morning" and all the blinds go up! The AJ Borzillo home in Sunset Hills designed by Dick Busch had incredible details in the ceilings and porch off the master bedroom made you feel you were in the Colorado mountains, wildlife included! A whole-house gut in Meadowbrook Country Club was a major draw. As you walked in the front door, the navy blue study made quite the statement and complemented the blue wallpaper in the dining room. The garage was even blue!

Hope to see you at the upcoming Deck the Halls of Glennon Homes Tour on Saturday, December 5! We have four beautiful homes decked out for the holidays in support of SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. The three featured homes in this issue were on the Christmas tour last year to give you an idea of the combined talent of design teams and homeowners right here in St. Louis (pages 20-47).

The Holiday Table Top Tour is back this year in full force to jump start your holiday decorating inspiration! If there ever was a time to go all out in making your home spread the warmth and joy of the holiday season this is the year. It's on Saturday, November 6 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.!

Another St. Louis tradition to enjoy the entire month of December with the entire family is the Central West End Window Walk.

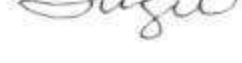
With so many holiday activities to participate in this year, be sure to still adhere to safe practices while COVID is still in our midst. Hopefully by next year, COVID will no longer be front and center.

Thank you once again, dear readers, for your continued support this past year. And thank you to all our supporting clients. We wouldn't be able to share the abundance of St. Louis talent in the home building and design industry with our readership if it wasn't for you!

Merry Merry!

Suzie

Suzie Osterloh
Publisher/Owner



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SETTING FOR THE SEASON

If you're planning on entertaining for the holiday season, look no further for table setting inspiration! Five local interior design shops created their version of a holiday table setting with everything from refined rustic accents to tuxedo napkin rings. Find which style works best for your home, and get ready to party!

By Moe Godat
Photography by Kim Dillon
Location: Vanderbilt Homes

A Little Extra SPARKLE

Design by Forshaw of St. Louis.

This glitzy forest place setting doesn't shy away from sparkle! A white, gray-rimmed dinner plate and 8-inch driftwood plate sit on a gold monstera leaf placemat. A leaf with gold accents act as the name card. To make the setting shine, an elaborate centerpiece adorns the table. The wooden lantern with electric flame candle add height and various sparkling greenery add substance. Large, blue-green flowers with golden sparkles accompany the lantern with faux branches complete with blue buds and sparkling berries. Assorted ornaments such as blue pinecones, a large matte bauble and a bejeweled and colorful ball add a final touch of glam.

TARTAN AND TUXEDOS

Design by Mary Tuttle's Flowers.

Dress up your holiday table with classy and elegant Juliska tableware. The beautifully textured red Kim Siebert placemat adds interest beneath a scalloped white charger. A classic mix of Christmas greens and reds decorates the tartan dinner plate. A Country Estate "Winter Frolic" salad plate depicts a playful red and white holiday scene, and a Juliska tartan napkin with tuxedo black napkin ring sits on top. When dinner is served, turn to the bright satin 5-piece flatware set to tuck in with style.

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OH, CHRISTMAS TREE

Design by
The Great Cover-Up.

Present a refined holiday tea time with this festive set, complete with decorated trees of various sizes! The Spode Christmas tree set includes a tea saucer and teacup, 10.5-inch dinner plate, 8-inch salad plate and 6.5-inch bread and butter plate. The "Winter Festival" salad plate with monogram adds a personalized touch to the setting. An eye-catching Two's Company beaded Christmas tree napkin ring decorates a bright red napkin in the center. A gorgeous Florence silverware set completes the picture.

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FOXY FESTIVITIES

Design by The Porch in Wildwood.

Rustic charm meets sophisticated finishes in this woodsy vintage table setting. The black table runner with a white striped border lays a tasteful foundation for a rough wooden shield. A dot rim metal charger holds a cream plate topped with a black stoneware bowl, in which sits a matching black napkin with white striped border and dot rim metal napkin ring. Above the tableware on the shield sits the silverware set bound with custom greenery and cloth ribbon. A vintage hand-painted bucket with a fox carries additional greenery, pinecones and wine, and a vintage wooden trug offers cookies close at hand for dessert. A medium candle holder with electric tea light sets the mood, and a decorative wine glass waits to be filled. The black rotating chalkboard instructs, "Mangia Bene," or eat well!

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Not-So-Blue CHRISTMAS

Design by
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Birds of a Feather

Inspired by birds and his colorful childhood upbringing, painter Jeff Kapfer brings his feathered friends to life with striking graphic aplomb.

By Jeanne Delathouder
Photography by Colin Miller/Strauss Peyton

Jeff Kapfer has been captivated with art since he was a kid. Growing up in St. Louis, he loved coloring books, using chalk on the sidewalk and making a mess with Play-Doh and clay. After graduating from Wentzville Holt High School, he attended Saint Charles Community College for two years before transferring to Webster University.

"I thought I wanted to be an art teacher, but that quickly changed after taking several education classes," Jeff jokes. "One of my professors suggested I take a graphic design class. I loved using the computer as a tool to create art and design, and today I use the computer for composition, layout and color to help create my paintings," he adds.

After graduating from Webster University in 2002 with a BFA in Graphic Design, Jeff moved downtown to the Art Loft Building on Washington Avenue long before the area became a hip and trendy neighborhood. While looking for a design job, he started working in the backroom doing stock at The Galleria and eventually became a manager. On his days off, he would do freelance design and work on his paintings. Jeff landed his first graphic design job as a contractor at an information technology consulting firm.

"Throughout that time, I was painting and had my first show in 2005 at Houska Gallery in the Central West End neighborhood of St. Louis," says the artist. "In 2006, I started working in the creative department

at Build-A-Bear Workshop, and in 2010, became the creative director for the Vital Voice magazine for two years. Finally, I left BABW in 2016 to paint full time and incorporated my studio into my apartment at Printer's Lofts on Locust Street," he notes.

During Jeff's process, he typically starts a painting with a sketch—either on the computer or on paper—and then transfers it to canvas. Next, he applies several layers of acrylic paint to get an extraordinarily smooth and flat application of color. Then, with his impeccably steady hand, he paints the bold, black outlines of the colorful birds that have become his signature mark.

"Birds have always been a part of my life," explains Jeff. "I enjoyed watching birds at the feeders and looking at both of my grandmothers' collections of bird figurines. My family had chickens for pets—I came up with most of their names," he laughs. "We had a small coop in our back yard in Lake Saint Louis, where we started with five chickens—one for each family member—and eventually grew to be more than twenty."

Jeff began duck hunting with his family when he was just eight years old. He didn't shoot for several years and enjoyed just sitting back and watching the ducks circle the blind. Then, when a duck was brought back to the blind, he would investigate how the wings spread and the feet opened up. He would keep as many feathers as he could, turning them into ornaments. In school, almost every project revolved around a bird.

"It just happened naturally," Jeff recalls. "My classmates called me bird crazy—bird-obsessed. I guess I was and still am. Birds remind me of my childhood—going antiquing with my grandma, going duck hunting with my dad, brothers, uncles, cousins and grandpa. So my paintings are always inspired by a trip, a person or an experience—but as a bird," he laughs.

Jeff recently traveled to the Smokey Mountains and one morning went on a guided birdwatching trip. He spotted several birds he'd never seen before—sparking inspiration, new shapes and new color palettes. He is constantly working on new projects and products and currently has included silk-screened tote bags, coffee mugs, bird pins and bird ornaments in his repertoire.

"My favorite thing about being an artist is that I get to do what I love doing—creating," he notes. "I love seeing my work in its new home. Art can really change the mood of a space—and my work typically brightens up a room, giving you a happy, positive feeling."

Jeff has been showing his work at Houska Gallery for over 15 years. His studio is open by appointment only, and he typically holds a Holiday Open House in early December. See his work at the Foundry Art Centre in St. Charles for the Winter Juried Exhibition and at Houska Gallery for the 2021 Winter Group Show, both held in December. Visit JeffKapfer.com to see his latest work and information about upcoming events. ■ **See stlouishomesmag.com for resources.**

"I LOVE SEEING MY WORK IN ITS NEW HOME. ART CAN REALLY CHANGE THE MOOD OF A SPACE—AND MY WORK TYPICALLY BRIGHTENS UP A ROOM, GIVING YOU A HAPPY, POSITIVE FEELING."

Infused with Christmas

An empty nester and her design team blend the holidays into her home.

By **Melissa Mauzy** Photography **Anne Matheis** Architect **Lauren Strutman Architects** Interior Design **Castle Design** Contractor **Barco Construction**

When Thanksgiving approaches, homeowner Brigette McMillin knows Patti Porter and her team of holiday elves from the Rusted Chandelier are not far behind to deck her home for the holiday season. "She comes in and waves her Christmas wand, and POOF!" Brigette laughs.

McMillin and husband Tom have lived in their 1938 residence for 15 years and completed several renovations during that time. Brigette describes her style as traditional with a twist, and she always wants the home to feel warm and welcoming but beautiful at the same time. When it comes to decorating for the holidays, it has always been important to McMillin to keep it feeling like her home while adding the special memories and touches of the holiday season. She has worked with Porter for several years during the holidays to make her home merry and bright. "Patti is creative with a meticulous eye. She just knows her clients and makes sure she includes the things that are important to us whether it be pieces handed down from family or made by our kids," McMillin says.

This page: Every holiday season, Brigette and holiday designer Patti Porter, Rusted Chandelier, focus on a space to enhance. This year, the outdoor porch and dining tables were spruced up with greenery, birch and luxurious ribbons.
Opposite page: A recent addition, a glitzy tree in a gold urn tree stand makes the entrance inviting and festive coupled with the banister greenery.

Over the years, Porter has helped McMillin pare down her Christmas décor to keep meaningful items while saying goodbye to pieces they no longer need. While they reuse many adornments from season to season, they add to what they have and tweak the overall design. One of Porter's favorite recent additions is a glitzy tree in a gold urn tree stand in the foyer, which she says makes the entrance so inviting and festive coupled with the banister wrapped in greenery and adorned with bows.

Every year, there is an area that Porter and McMillin focus on to enhance it and give it a fresh look. The outdoor porch and dining tables were the focus this year and interest was added with greenery, birch, beautiful ribbon and a tree on the porch.

The Christmas color scheme plays right along with the colors McMillin already has in the home to make the holiday ornamentation blend into her everyday décor and not shout "it's the holidays." Instead of removing items on the mantel and bookshelves, holiday greenery and adornments are added to enhance what already exists. "I love to see in a home that holiday has been added to everyday life and not stripped of that look. It makes a home very lived-in and homey," Porter says. To create consistency from room to room, Porter uses the same quality satin and velvet ribbons in complementing colors. Double-face satin ribbon along with velvets give a more lush look.

The family room is bright, fun and festive with bold colors that stand out against the serene color scheme. Even though the McMillin children are all grown up, the family room tree is still the kids' tree and features sentimental ornaments made by the kids as well as each child's special collection. The living room décor is much

This page top: The family room features the kids' tree, which is decked in sentimental ornaments made by her children. **Opposite page:** When Porter and her team from Rusted Chandelier decorate for the holidays her goal is to blend the holiday ornamentation into her client's existing decor. Instead of removing items and replacing them with Christmas, Porter enhances what is already there with greenery, ribbon and adornments.

"As much as I love hosting and parities, the mangers center me back to the reason for the holidays, the spiritual connection of Christmas,"
—Brigette

more subdued than the family room. Porter and McMillin chose to use silvers and golds while weaving in new ribbons.

Brigette likes to use a mix of fresh and faux florals and greenery. Her go-to florist is Ken Meisner's Flower Shoppe, which did all of the fresh arrangements on the dining room tablescape. In more normal times pre-COVID, the McMillins host a large holiday gathering for family and friends, and special attention is given to the dining table. The couple have owned the dining set for more than two decades, and Classic Woodworking refinished the piece and also added multiple leaves so the couple can seat up to 20 guests for dinner.

McMillin readily admits she is a sucker for holiday entertaining and owns four sets of Christmas dishes. This year's tablescape features a charger topped with a red-rimmed plate with Christmas greenery, pine cones and bells. Fluted dishes passed down from family member to family member sit atop the place setting. "The fluted dishes are my favorite holiday piece because no one else has them and they are antique," Brigette explains. "They are so versatile. You can do anything with them."

A credenza in the dining room is a cheerful holiday vignette. Candelabras that belonged to Tom's parents flank a tray featuring a silver tea set handed down from Brigette's mother who had it handed down from her mother. The tea set is displayed with one of Brigette's many nativity manger sets, which she collects. The white nativity set was a wedding gift given to the McMillins and hand-made by the wedding guest. Each room has a different manger that is special to Brigette and the touchstone of Christmas. Another favorite is a handmade dark clay manger with a white glaze she has owned for 30 years. "As much as I love hosting and parties, the mangers center me back to the reason for the holidays, the spiritual connection of Christmas," she says.

Last December, the McMillins were honored to be selected as one of the homes featured on the Deck the Halls for Glennon Homes holiday tour. Brigette, who is a member of the Glennon Guild benefitting SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, loved how the event brought the neighborhood and community together. "The tour was THE holiday event," she says. "People were dressed up and ready to celebrate. COVID had robbed us of so much in 2020, but the home tour was done in a safe way and it truly felt like Christmas that day. It was a fun opportunity to spread good cheer. And the best part was at the end of the night there was no party mess to clean up!" ■ **See stlouishomesmag.com for resources and additional photos.**

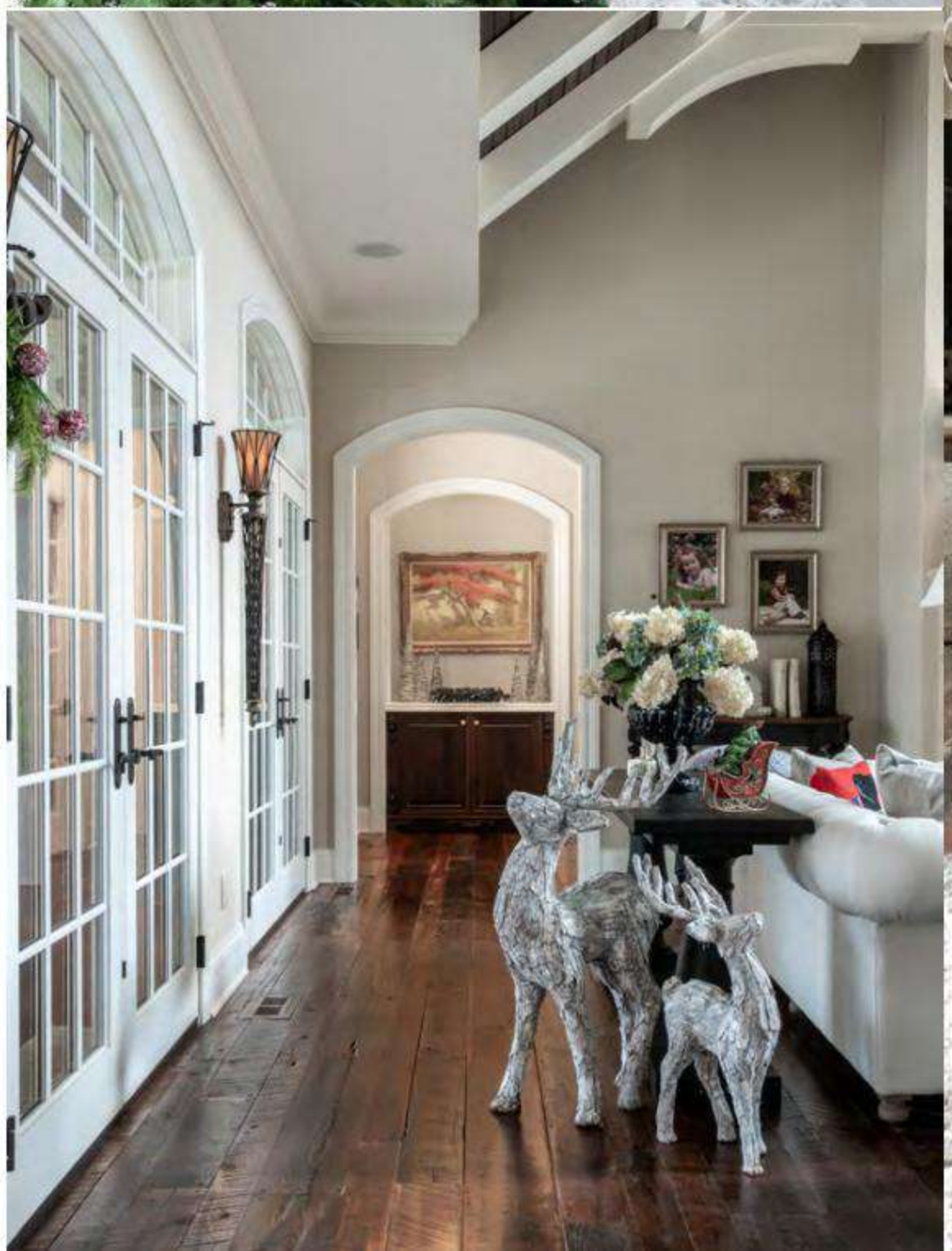
The dining room tablescape is over-the-top festive featuring Christmas dinnerware and beautiful fluted dishes passed down from family. Brigette collects manger sets, and nearly every room features one of her cherished pieces. She says as much as she loves holiday decorations and parties, it is the mangers that bring her back to the spiritual connection of Christmas.

Celebrating Family

The Bacichs use their shared love of the Christmas season to enjoy time decorating together.

By **Moe Godat** Photography **Anne Matheis**
Architect **Jeff Day & Associates, LLC** Builder **Cambrooke Development**

Lovers of outdoor entertaining, the homeowners also decorated their back patio and outdoor fireplace for the Christmas season, creating the perfect atmosphere for family time around the fire.



Their love of the great outdoors and ample outdoor living space drew the Bacich family to the lot they built their home on in 2014. "We wanted the house to be centered around the outdoor spaces, fall and fires," says homeowner and mother Dana Bacich. When the home was first completed, the family's three children were young, and Tim and Dana Bacich wanted them to be able to enjoy time outside and ride their bikes around the neighborhood. Now that the kids are older (a junior and senior in high school and a sophomore in college), the home still functions as a comfortable place to entertain both indoors and out.

Their goal in designing the home from the start was comfort. "I didn't want this to be a house that people walk into and feel like they have to take their shoes off," Dana notes. "I want everyone who comes over to feel comfortable and welcome in whatever they are wearing." The homeowners' preferred architectural and interior design style, French Country, provides the level of comfort and class that they were looking for, embracing both rough edges and refined elements.

"We like to be the house that has people over," Dana says. As self-proclaimed Christmas fanatics, the Bacichs' passion for the Christmas season and their love of entertaining combine to create a winter wonderland in their main-level entertaining spaces. Getting their home ready for the holidays is a family affair beginning the day after Thanksgiving. To enjoy the season as long as possible, the whole family travels to pick out the Christmas tree and start decorating it the same day, ending the busy task of holiday bedecking with their favorite tradition of watching The Polar Express. Later that same weekend or early the following week, Julie Redman of Home Staging enters the picture to assist Dana and add finishing touches.

"We want our home to be welcoming," says homeowner Dana Bacich. The large nutcracker standing at attention in the home's entrance welcomes in guests and sets the tone for a fun-loving Christmas home.

HENRY F. MILLER

A clean, relaxing place to enjoy coffee, the parlor's more "formal" decorations fill guests with the Christmas spirit upon entering. Pollie Hughes from Sallie Home assisted the homeowner in choosing the Simon Pearce trees on the coffee table.

"We use the same things every year and store them in the basement," Dana explains. "When we first met, Julie and I went shopping together and just starting picking things out. I know what I like and what I don't, and Julie helps put it all together." Dana also mentions the amazing help from Patti Porter of Rusted Chandelier in many of her decorations and arrangements, saying Porter is both inviting and a pleasure to work with. "She's an expert of making a home feel cozy."

The Christmas spirit begins outside with elaborate holiday urns by Garden Oasis. They opted to keep the outdoor decorations simple, and the home looks like a gingerbread house from the road with simple white lights trimming the edges.

A large nutcracker in the foyer welcomes guests into the warm and cozy atmosphere. "We've had him for a long time; the kids just thought he was funny, and he's stayed with us," Dana laughs. The main goal of the Christmas decor was to create a festive environment, and the nutcracker sets the tone for a fun-loving visit.

The Bacichs and Julie Redman kept things more formal in the parlor. "We drink coffee in the mornings in the parlor during the winter, but other than that it mostly just looks pretty," Dana explains. Simon Pearce Christmas trees from Sallie Home cast a calming glow from the coffee table, complementing the elegantly decorated tree with silver baubles and accents. Dana notes her gratitude for the fabulous help of Pollie Hughes at Sallie Home, saying that she is always a pleasure to work with. Silver bark reindeer stand proudly behind the couch. "I saw those reindeer in

The great room's decor may be less formal than the parlor's, but it holds nostalgic significance for the famiy. The tree's ornaments and stockings over the fire are made by the children's grandmother.

the window at Marketplace at the Abbey, and I slammed on my brakes and turned around! I just had to have them," Dana says.

As guests walk down the hallway to the kitchen and great room, they can admire the hand-finished Amish wood floors throughout the first level made from 100-year-old barn wood. The hallway also boasts a custom table from Marketplace at the Abbey decorated with red berry trees and a nativity scene.

The great room acts as the hub of the house where the family gathers and celebrates the Christmas season together. Two seating sets from Restoration Hardware provide plenty of space to lounge. The home's second, less-formal Christmas tree in the great room holds decorations made by the kids' grandmother, who makes each child their own ornament every Christmas until the age of 18 according to Dana. The stockings, also handmade by Grandma, hang on the mantel of the fireplace.

The dining table from Restoration Hardware has decorations with sentimental significance, including the heirloom Christmas china from husband Tim's side of the family. Golden pinecones and red placemats draw the eye in while napkin rings from Sallie Home and a centerpiece from Marketplace at the Abbey create interest.

"We all love Christmas," Dana says, "but my favorite part of the season is just spending time with them. As much as we enjoy the anticipation of the holiday and setting all the decorations up, there is something just as satisfying about taking them down together when Christmas is over."

As always, enjoying time with their kids Ellie, Joe and Will, is what Tim and Dana are looking forward to most as the holidays draw near. The decorations, while beautifully done and tastefully chosen, are there to make their time together brighter. "We just like to celebrate time together," Dana says.

■ **See stlouishomesmag.com for resources and additional photos.**

Above: In love with another similar table she saw at Marketplace at the Abbey, Dana ordered a custom version to stand in their hallway leading from the parlor to the great room. **Opposite page:** The great room offers endless amounts of family relaxation and time spent together during the holiday season. Considered the hub of their home, the great room has two large seating sets from Restoration Hardware in front of the cozy fireplace.

Merry Christmas
JOY

In designing the home, owner Melissa Haupt wanted a large kitchen. Rusted Chandelier's Patti Porter, who loves to utilize fruit for kitchen holiday décor, added lemons and oranges for a pop of color and to play off the brass hardware highlighting the artful La Cornue range and custom cabinetry by Beck/ Allen.

HOLIDAY WONDERLAND

Rusted Chandelier's Patti Porter enhances an already magnificent home with her special seasonal touches.

By **Kim Hill** Photography by **Anne Matheis** Architect **Mitchell Wall Architecture & Design** Builder **R.G. Ross Construction**

Navy velvet chairs encircle the round table, which was already accessorized with an artful grouping of ginger jars, champagne bucket, hurricane lamp and candles. Patti Porter added red oversized ornaments, ribbon and touches of gold. "I like to tell people, 'don't clear your mantels. Just add to them," says Porter, who took her own advice and hung drippy Norfolk pine garland in front of the mantel, not on top of it, to keep Haupt's tasteful pheasants and hurricane lamps in place.

Melissa Haupt didn't need much convincing when she was asked to open her home for the Deck the Halls of Glennon Homes Christmas Tour in 2020. An accomplished hostess, she loves entertaining. "It's a great cause, and I was happy I could contribute," says Haupt.

What gave her a slight pause was the fact she'd always done her own holiday decorating. Talking with a Glennon Guild officer, Haupt wondered aloud if she could handle the scope of yuletide trimmings Haupt felt a tour home should receive. The Glennon Guild officer suggested Patti Porter, owner of Rusted Chandelier, could do the job, and Haupt and Porter transformed Haupt's already exquisite home into a holiday wonderland.

"Her house is magnificent," Porter says of the 4-bedroom Dutch Colonial in Frontenac. Designed by Mitchell Wall Architecture and Design and built by R.G. Ross Construction, the 6,500-square-foot home was inspired by Haupt's love for architecture often found in the Hamptons. "I wanted a very open floor plan and to be able to access everything, from the outdoor living to my bedroom, from one level," Haupt explains. "I also liked the concept of the house wrapping around the outdoor living spaces."

Above: Homeowner Melissa Haupt purchased the Serena & Lily swing for the space and painted her existing rattan and wicker furniture a crisp white. Faux fur and fleece throws and pillows add seasonal warmth to the outdoor spaces.
Left: To welcome holiday guests, Patti Porter utilized homeowner Melissa Haupt's magnolia wreaths lacquered in red and dressed oversized lanterns with simple greenery and pine cones. The front doors are painted Fine Paints of Europe's Hollandlac Brilliant in Navy Blue, a hint of the colorway to be found in the home's interiors.

From the dining room, guests can view the wine room through this window. In Haupt's previous home, the wine cellar was located on the lower level. A floating stone counter displays part of Haupt's collection.

Opportunities for outdoor living are apparent upon arrival, with front porch swings beckoning. Haupt painted existing rattan and wicker tables and chairs a crisp white. Overhead, the "haint blue" ceiling is a nod to long-standing traditions. The glossy front doors with gas lanterns on both sides are painted in Fine Paints of Europe's Hollandlac Brilliant Navy Blue, a hint of the colorway to come in the home's interiors. "I love navy," says Haupt. "I have a lot of things that are traditional, and I wanted to utilize a lot of that furniture. But I also like a lot of contemporary details. Navy is a good way to coordinate styles because it's classic. It never goes out of style as far as I'm concerned."

Working with Mitchell Wall designer Rachael Dolan, Haupt envisioned interiors that were crisp, yet relaxed. The great room is an excellent example of traditional and contemporary flowing together cohesively. Haupt saw the Moooi chandelier in a design magazine and fell in love with it. "That chandelier is very contemporary but if

"Surrey Cottage," a painting by Mark King, holds a place of honor above the primary bedroom fireplace. Patti Porter used the work's "romantic" pinks, greens and golds in selecting long-stemmed dusty miller and eucalyptus to create a garland accented with five different ribbons. Charlie the cat, a Scottish fold, approves.

you look at the room itself, with the trim, the wood, the very foundations of the home are very traditional architecturally. But it all works together." A cascading, see-through fireplace is clad in modern textured stone tiles and accented with a traditional mirror hung above the marble mantel and fireplace surround.

For holiday décor, Porter says she's usually inspired by a room's existing aesthetic to enhance what's already there. She took cues from a contemporary artwork's greens, blues and golds in decorating a large, flocked tree tucked in a corner of the great room.

Porter used a similar approach in the primary bedroom, where a beloved painting hangs above the fireplace. "My late husband and I loved to buy art when we traveled, and this piece was purchased at a gallery in Vail, Colorado," Haupt explains. "It's an original Mark King. I love waking up and looking at it in my bedroom." Porter says the work's "romantic" pinks, greens and golds influenced her use of long-stemmed dusty miller and eucalyptus to create a garland accented with five different ribbons. "Two ribbons are OK, but five are great to get all the texture and colors," says Porter.

Above: Homeowner Melissa Haupt found the bowl sink at the Kohler Design Center in Wisconsin, her home state. The wall mount faucet is Kohler as well. With book-matched marble for the counter and the wall's chevron pattern, "the powder room is gorgeous," says Patti Porter. "In a room as exquisite as this, a simple pine garland and ribbon is all that's needed."
Left: Inspired by a photo, homeowner Melissa Haupt and designer Rachael Dolan collaborated in designing the custom bed with integrated reading sconces for the primary bedroom. Ribbon and greenery add a touch of yuletide ambience.

Patti Porter says she's usually inspired by a room's existing aesthetic for holiday decorating, evidenced here by the tree's greens, blues and golds taken from the contemporary artwork on the credenza. Fraser, a Scottish fold, snuggles amidst a throw on the sectional.

The Moooi chandelier was the starting point for the great room's interiors, which combines contemporary styling such as the chandelier and the fireplace's textured tiles with the home's exquisite, traditional trim work. Three sets of French doors open to the outdoor living space for easy movement in and out.

For the holidays, Haupt takes turns hosting Thanksgiving or Christmas with one of her sisters. When it's Haupt's year to host Christmas for their families, which includes Haupt's adult son and daughter, she places the prepared dishes on one of her two kitchen islands. "Nobody's bumping into each other and the space flows very well," she says. Guests then make their way to her classically exquisite dining room, with its navy velvet chairs, window treatments embellished with a Greek key border, marble fireplace surround, detailed wood trim and viewing window into the adjoining wine room. When she first toured the home, Porter says she was taken with the grouping of ginger jars, candles and champagne bucket Haupt had placed on the dining table. "I wouldn't change anything," Porter told Haupt. "I'd just add to it." Utilizing drippy Norfolk pine garland and cedar in front of the fireplace mantel rather than on top, Porter could incorporate Haupt's silver pheasants and glass hurricanes. Porter accented the rich navy with red oversized ornaments and ribbon and touches of gold.

If the December weather is nice enough, Haupt's guests move to the outdoor living space, which flows from the great room through three sets of double French doors. Decked out with a dining table, a fireplace, TV, grill and heaters in the ceiling, it's a true four-season space Haupt loves.

For the Deck the Halls home tour, Porter set a beautiful tablescape and place settings utilizing Haupt's crystal and Christmas china. Porter added a flocked tree decorated with

cardinals, birch logs, pine cones and feathers. Continuing the use of natural elements, Porter used a basketweave tree collar instead of a skirt and added Haupt's own cowhide on the floor to ground the space. Porter likes to group smaller baubles together in what she calls "ornament bouquets." Instead of having just one 5-inch ornament, it makes more of an impact to group smaller ornaments together, particularly when mixing matte and shiny textures, Porter says. Both women say the "flying cardinal tree" turned out to be a favorite among all of Porter's holiday designs.

Hundreds of visitors enjoyed Haupt's home during the Deck the Halls tour, which raises funds for the children cared for by SSM Health Cardinal Glennon. "I was delighted to be a part of it, and I think people enjoy seeing what is going on in St. Louis from an architecture and design standpoint," Haupt says. "What motivates us most, of course, is the ability to help the kids." ■

See stlouishomesmag.com for resources and additional photos.

Using birch sticks as a topper coming out of the tree and placing the cardinals on outer branches help the tree appear three-dimensional, says Patti Porter. She used natural elements—birds, birch logs, pine cones and feathers—on the tree for the outdoor living space. The basketweave tree collar continues the use of natural elements, while the cowhide is an unexpected touch grounding the space. The outdoor space's many accruements include ceiling-placed heaters and retractable screens for 4-season outdoor living.

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NOT COLD, **COLORFUL**

If you're tired of using the same evergreens every year in your winter garden, check out these colorful additions! Local landscapers give us an insight on adding winter color to your outdoor space.

Low-maintenance beauty: Sango Kaku won't require much work! Mulch will help retain moisture and keep the roots cool. The plant needs little pruning, but if you do opt to prune your plant, avoid doing so in spring when the sap is running.

Japanese maples are always a colorful addition to any garden: lovely, feathery spring foliage in soft, bright colors, sculptural shapes year-round and fiery autumnal displays. But Acer palmatum "Sango Kaku" goes the extra mile—when cool temperatures arrive, their bark begins to deepen into a glowing, flamingo pink that stays vibrant all winter. A truly brilliant display from this upright, vase-shaped tree whose name translates to "coral tower." Hardy and adaptable to most soil and climate conditions and happy in full sun to part shade, Sango Kaku asks only for love and consistent watering. **Kathie Hoyer, Bowood Farms.**

A handsome tree with an oval to rounded crown, an open habit, and upright branching, **Paperbark maples** will bring color to your garden. Soft green leaves turn scarlet in the fall. It becomes distinctive and elegant with age as its papery sheets of bark peel to reveal cinnamon-brown new bark. Paperbark maples are an excellent small landscape specimen or woodland understory accent. Ideally, plant these trees in filtered sun. Water regularly; this tree can tolerate wetlands. They are best planted in early fall or mid-spring. **David Sherwood, Sherwood's Forest Nursery.**

Year-round beauty: The paperbark maple isn't just an asset to your winter garden! Its colorful show begins in early spring with three lobes that are green and silver, making it a small shade tree for the summer months. In late fall, expect the foliage to turn colors from bright yellow, vibrant orange and crimson red.

Beautiful fall color, great branching structure and beautiful cinnamon-red exfoliating bark make acer griseum **(Paperbark Maple)** a good choice for winter color. They are low-maintenance; for upkeep, prune the crossing branches and deadwood to maintain good air flow and structure. **Justin Verbryck, Frisella Nursery.**

It's hard to top **Winterberry Holly, Ilex verticillata**, for a colorful display in the middle of winter. A type of native Missouri Holly, Winterberry loses its leaves each fall. What's left is an eye-popping view of thousands of brightly colored berries clinging to every stem. It makes a fantastic hedge or showy focal point. Hybrids of Winterberry have been developed that have an abundance of plump berries. Heights can range from 3 feet to 15 feet in the wild. Its width depends on where it is grown. In wet sites, it will spread to form a dense thicket. In drier soil, it matures to a tighter clump. Regardless, it is easy to grow in any soil in full sun to part shade. **Ann Lapides, Sugar Creek Gardens.**

CREATING CHRISTMAS CHEER

Resito Pecson, owner of **twigs & MOSS**, shares his 20 years of decorating experience to bring the Christmas season to your home in a style that fits your family.

Edited by Moe Godat
Portrait Photography by Colin Miller/ Strauss Peyton

Choosing Holiday Garland
A client's personal preference is always the first consideration for choosing garland in the home. For example, if the scent of Christmas is the priority, then using fresh cedar would be a consideration. Where a garland is to be placed also determines what to use. If on or near fabric, such as silk drapery, I would steer them to artificial garland. When it's going up is also a factor: if early in the season, I would avoid greens that dry quickly and opt for maybe a combination of mostly artificial components with a touch of fresh selections, which can easily be replaced when needed.

Fresh Garland Benefits & Maintenance
Fresh garland will give you the authentic scent of the season. It also drapes and hangs beautifully. Although it's difficult to find garlands that can take the place of fresh, our artificial selection at twigs & MOSS are very lifelike. Keeping a cool temperature is best to keep a garland fresh. Avoid excessive misting, especially on magnolia as the leaves will dry blotchy if they're too wet. It's best to time the installation properly. Shape the garland when fresh, so it dries in the position desired.

Going Up
Specific to the front of the house, I find that most only decorate at ground level. But, if you go up, even with only one or two wreaths at 10 or 15 feet off the ground, the visual impact completes the overall look. I totally understand the height limitations, but we're here to help!

Color Rush
When choosing the colors you'd like in your home around Christmas time, it is to use colors that you like and make you happy! Whether you choose traditional Christmas colors of red, green, silver and gold or you go a more untraditional route, using color is important. We need color, any color, especially now during the pandemic. Color makes things brighter, and it's the recent trend. We've fully embraced color with our ornament wreaths and garlands.

Additional Holiday Decor
Many people decorate their staircases, trees and mantels, but more accents can be added in unexpected places. Small wreaths on mirrors and windows will add a charming and whimsical touch to your holiday decor.

It's easy! Hang them up using adhesive hooks applied to the glass surface, and they'll look like they're floating on the mirror.

Accentuate the Positive
If you have a unique oval window, place an oval wreath around it. If you have a juliet balcony, adorn it with a swag. Look at what you have, what's unique to your home, and make it even better by decorating it for the holidays. ■

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13626 Sturbridge Road, Town and Country, 63131

** We will be observing proper social distancing practices. Masks will be required.*
This is a self-guided tour, maps will be available at each home.

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St. Louis HOMES + lifestyles

GARLAND GALORE

By Melissa Mauzy

Whether fresh or faux, **garland** is a staple of the holiday season. Swagged on mantels, framing doorways and wrapping staircases, holiday garland can be customized to fit your seasonal style.

Vertical Décor
By Regina Gust Designs.
No mantel? No problem. Often our clients without mantels still want that traditional design. Vertical garlands not only give off a more interesting, contemporary look, but there is also more space to display beautiful ornaments and décor.
Photography by Claudia Casbarian, Julie Soefer Photography.

Pretty in Pink
By Regina Gust Designs.
Rose-colored ornaments with soft pink mix with a taupe colored Stevens ribbon. Large glitter pinecones add another element other than ornaments to create an interesting overall design.
Photography by Claudia Casbarian, Julie Soefer Photography.

Natural Christmas
By Modern Rustic Homes.
Envisioned as a European hunting lodge, the clients asked that we use natural materials for the Christmas decorations. Fresh juniper, grape vine, sequoia and white pine pinecones, pheasant feathers and fir branches made up the majority of the garland. The Lodge located just 90 minutes from their city house is filled with family and friends during the holidays.
Photograph by Rick Lucas.

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Garland Greetings
By Frontgate.
Whether draped over the front door to greet guests or framed around windows in the dining room, garlands are a sophisticated way to say "happy holidays" in every space in your home. Decorating exterior window and door frames is common, but bringing the same treatment indoors will surprise your guests and bring extra warmth to the room. When decorating hard-to-reach places like above your door, consider cordless greenery. It makes setting things aglow as simple as pushing a button, so you won't have to fuss with the garlands until it's time for the decorations to come down.

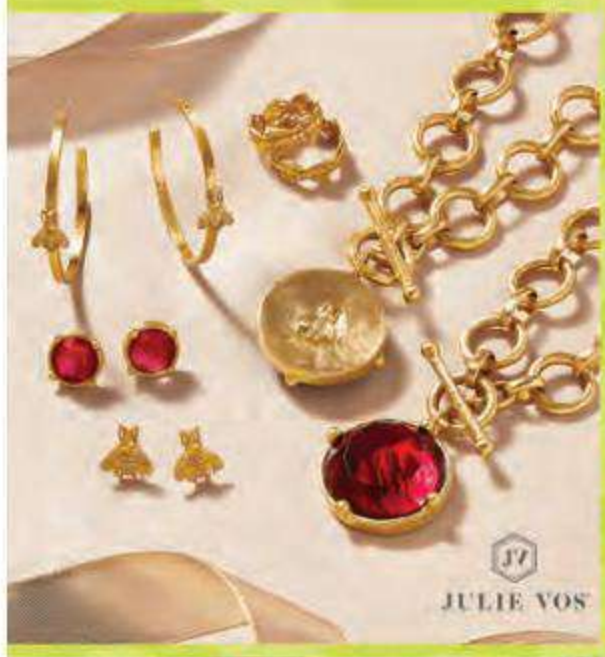
Christmas Canopy
By Frontgate.
A favorite way to spread Christmas cheer is to add even more drama to the classic showstopper that is known as the canopy bed. Extend the magic throughout the bedroom with coordinating garland and wreaths. Stretch garland across surfaces ranging from the mantel to the door frame for an especially festive look.

Glass and Gold
By SAJ Designs, LLC.
This beautiful traditional garland makes a glamorous statement. The creme and gold ribbon is mingled with some antique glass family ornaments and gold cord.

Photography by Matthew Jones, Focus Fort Worth Photography.

Rustic Holiday
By Spectrum Interior Design. This custom garland was handcrafted with burlap ribbon, pinecones and berry sprigs to complement this home's rustic nature and warmly welcome guests.

Photography courtesy of Spectrum Interior Design.



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Whole Kids Outreach is a non-profit organization serving seven counties in rural southeast Missouri. They offer an integrated approach for children, pregnant mothers and families. Their focus is to broadly address the many influences that place children at risk in isolated, rural, low-income areas. Donations and the money from door prize registration goes toward buying Christmas gifts for children in need.

Participating Shops

The Great Cover-Up
9708 Clayton Road, Ladue, MO 63124

Topic: Setting a perfect holiday table
Raffle item: Holiday basket (value $200)

Blue Dahlia Designs
7930 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63119

Topic: The icing on top
Raffle item: Faux floral centerpiece (value $200)

The Gifted Gardener
8935 Manchester Rd. St. Louis, MO 63144

Topic: Holiday entertaining in the "Nick" of time!
Raffle item: Matching pair of 24" holiday pillows (value $150)

Marketplace at The Abbey
10090 Manchester Rd, St. Louis, MO 63122

Topic: Creating an elegant table with natural elements
Raffle item: ETU Charcuterie board shaped in a tree and Beautiful Boards book (value $205)

Mary Tuttle's Flowers
17021 Baxter Road, Chesterfield, MO 63005

Topic: Creative entertaining and mixing old with new
Raffle item: Fall decorative lantern (value $150)

Forshaw of St. Louis (west)
15977 Manchester Road, Ellisville, MO 63011

Topic: Blue Christmas
Raffle item: 3ft. lighted Christmas tree and snowglobe ($225 value)

PRESENTED BY:

ST. LOUIS HOMES lifestyles

RUGGED ROOTS

Rustic interior design uses its simplistic roots to create a comfortable, low-fuss home environment.

Design by Courtney St. John Studio
Photography by Gibeon Photography

Rustic Background

Rustic interior design was born from necessity. When travelers set up homesteads far outside city limits, bringing heavy furniture from previous homes and far away stores wasn't possible. Instead, they crafted much of the furniture themselves or with a local artisan and used local materials. This created a less polished and perfected aesthetic, but created a new brand of comfort and charm.

Celebrating Character

This design style doesn't rely on clean lines and bright whites! Rather, search for furniture and materials that reflect their origins. For example, embrace the natural knots in wood or the rust that forms on metal accents. These imperfections lend a rugged feel to a space and create a sense of comfort.

Forest Color Scheme

All you have to do to find your rustic color scheme is look to the great outdoors! Forest greens, rich browns and every shade in between evoke a natural and warm feeling. Even better, these colors don't show everyday dirt as easily!

Natural Accents

If green and brown are overwhelming your space, consider using other natural accent colors to bring depth. Look to colors such as

muted reds, blues and blacks to add interest. Aside from wooden pieces, be sure to include metal finishes such as iron, copper or brass for an additional layer of texture.

Comfort is Key

There's a reason many rustic home designs center around a cozy statement fireplace! Pay attention to rugs, pillows, blankets and furs for added comfort for guests. Warm textiles are especially important in homes with all wood floors, large stone fireplaces and many metal accents.

Organic Elements
Warmth and comfort are paramount in a rustic space. Create a relaxing atmosphere with natural elements such as wood, stone, leaves and animal hides (remember, faux furs work just as well). Leave decadent lighting, plastic accents and cold colors for another space! If you can't ditch the white walls, use them as a way to accentuate natural wood accents.

Rustic vs. Farmhouse
Rustic interior design and farmhouse design may seem very similar on the surface, but they achieve the goals of comfort and simplicity differently. Farmhouse design relies on a majority of refined elements with the occasional rugged piece of art or furniture to add charm, while rustic design is the opposite, using mostly unrefined pieces and the occasional refined piece for functional purposes. ■

VAIL'S GREAT ESCAPE

By Gina Christman
Photography courtesy of Grand Hyatt Vail.

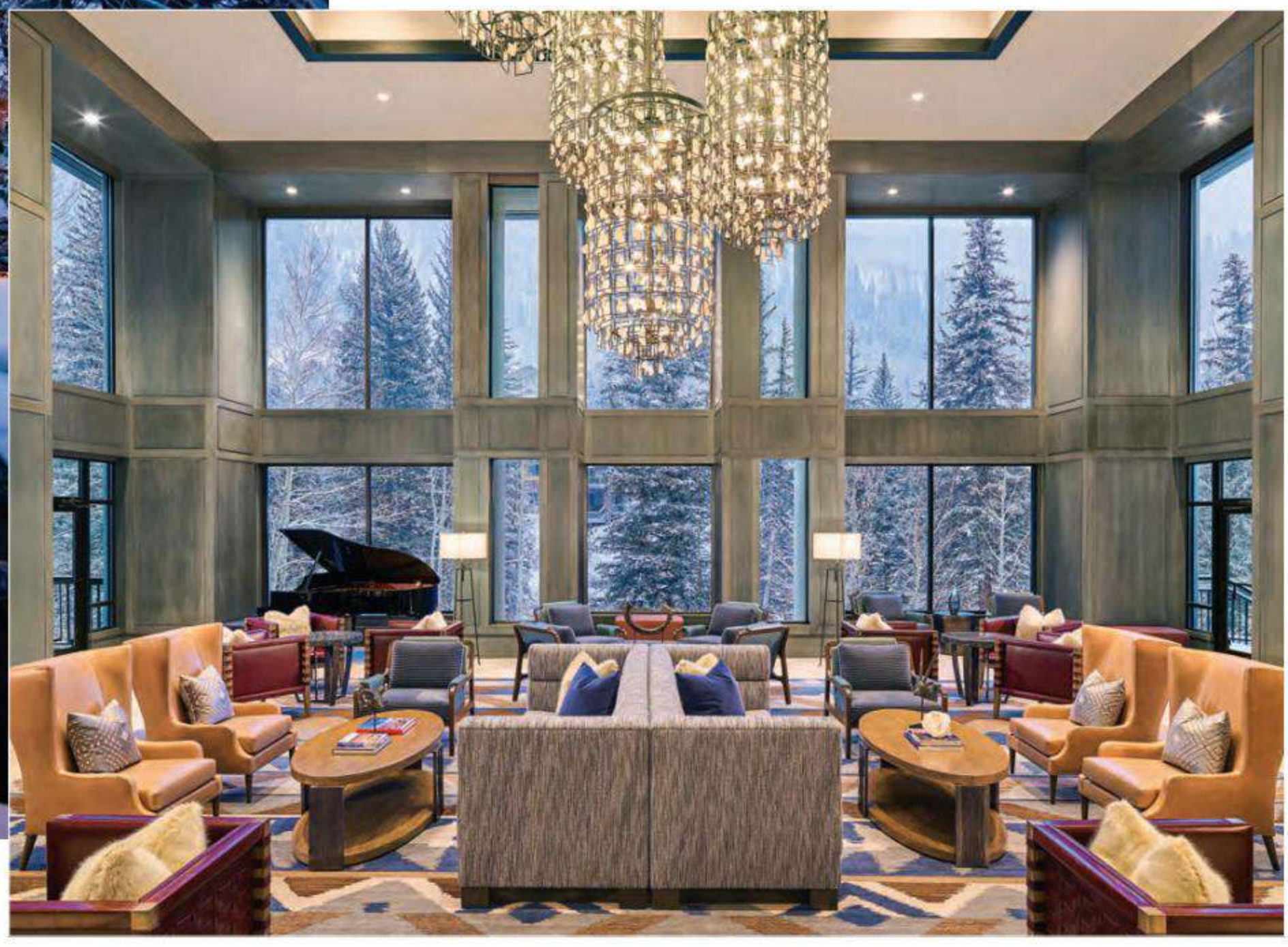
THE ULTRA-POSH SKI-IN, SKI-OUT GRAND HYATT VAIL IS A WORLD UNTO ITSELF

Although Vail, Colorado, is a destination to be enjoyed year-round, it's ski season that packs in the most awe-inspiring experiences with the whole family in mind. Its Alpine villages—Vail Village, Lionshead and Golden Peak—are chock full of shops, restaurants, museums, galleries and all, but the crowds can be a bit much. Savvy visitors enjoy all the hustle and bustle of the village but know they can escape just a couple of miles down the road to the more secluded Grand Hyatt Vail.

Skiers and non-skiers will find no shortage of things to do at the Grand Hyatt Vail, a 285-room ski-in, ski-out resort that sits at the foot of Vail Mountain (the largest ski mountain in Colorado) and along the banks of Gore Creek. At the base of the resort's private Chair Lift 20, Venture Sports stocks the latest in gear and offers concierge and valet services, heated boot storage and an experienced and knowledgeable staff.

Guests can book a snowshoeing excursion to explore the mountain forest or take part in Yoga, Pilates or Barre classes. Rather take a dip in the pool or hot tub or go for a rigorous session in the 24/7 fitness center? No worries. Go it alone or follow the resort's varied schedule of activities where new adventures appear every day. Kids will enjoy warm cookies or s'mores after skating at the resort's private ice rink. Custom-fitted

Left: The Grand Hyatt Vail is nestled at the base of Vail Mountain, alongside the banks of Gore Creek.
Below: The Alpine-inspired Fireside Lounge is the resort's social center



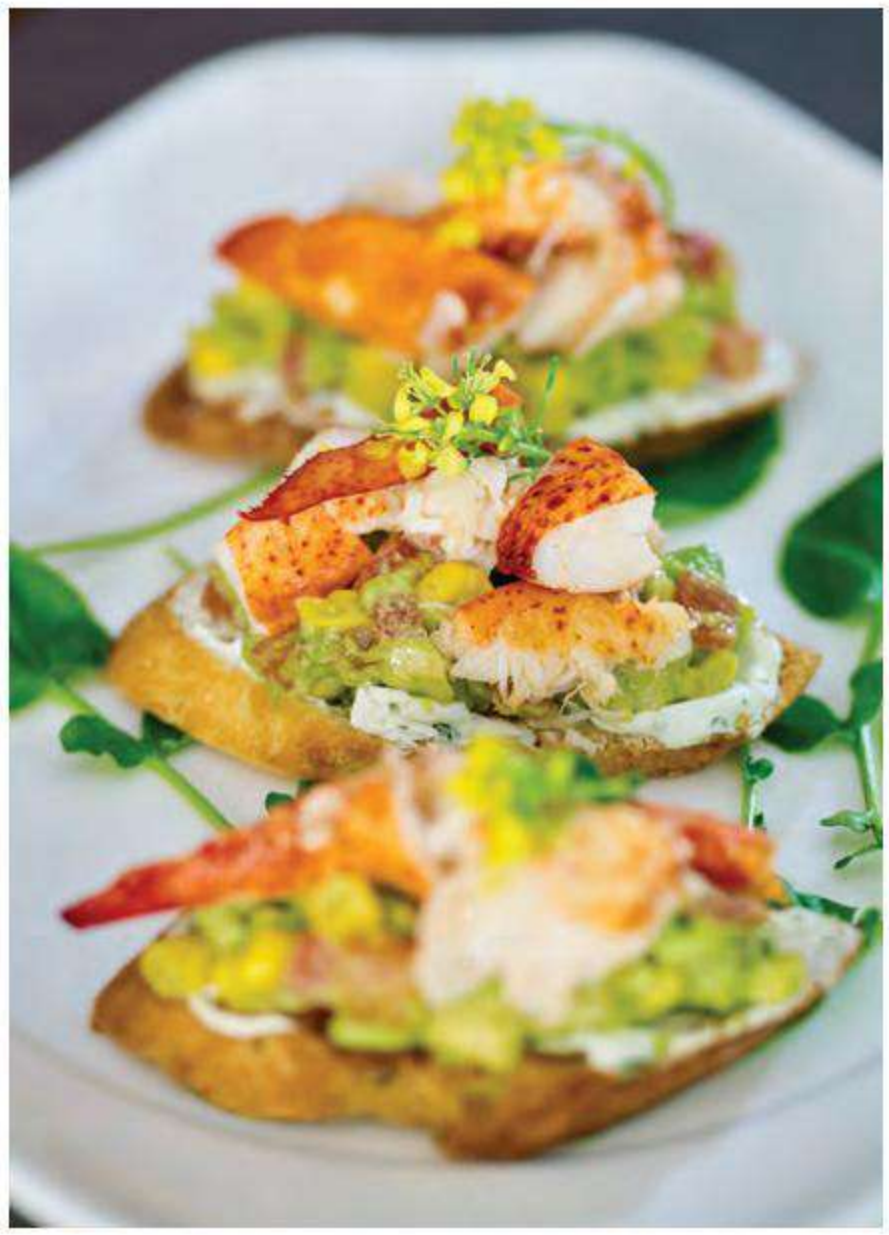
ice skates are available in the cozy yurt just outside the rink (the yurt makes a quiet place to read or relax with a cocktail, too).

Grand Hyatt Vail's award-winning Spa draws on the surrounding landscape for inspiration and its treatments and ingredients offer the powers of blended essential oils derived from native mountain botanicals. There's nothing quite as rejuvenating after a day on the mountain as a signature massage followed by a visit to the aromatherapy steam room or salt sauna before stepping out into the brisk Alpine air.

In 2018, the hotel underwent a multi-million-dollar renovation that brought the property and all of the resort's services to a spectacular level. The popular Fireside Lounge (with its own champagne vending machine) is the resort's gathering spot and the world-class cuisine and stellar wine list at Gessner are among the best in Vail. Superb Colorado Lamb Chops are standouts, and other menu selections are suited to each season.

There are several levels of rooms and suites, all of which are spacious and modern. Huge, pristine marble bathrooms with perfect lighting and deluxe Balmain amenities are a welcome surprise.

Shuttles run to-and-from the villages every 15 minutes, but it's an easy, scenic walk along Gore Creek for the slightly more adventurous. hyatt.com ■



Complementary shuttles to Lionshead and Vail Village leave every fifteen minutes from the resort entrance.

< The extensive menu at Gessner is inspired by the rich culinary heritage of the Rockies.

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American Made

Almost eradicated after a foreign disease, the American chestnut tree is growing new roots in the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Information provided by John Dedeke, The Missouri Botanical Garden.

Photography provided by The Missouri Botanical Garden and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF)

The American Chestnut Foundation

The American Chestnut Foundation

The Missouri Botanical Garden

The American chestnut was once a major component of the forest ecosystem of eastern North America. It is now almost extinct in the wild, devastated by chestnut blight, a fungal disease introduced from East Asia. Chestnut trees were highly valued for their strong and rot-resistant timber and their edible nuts. The American Chestnut Foundation is working to breed a blight resistant American chestnut and reintroduce this tree to its original habitat. They are using a technique called backcrossing, which involves cross-breeding the American chestnut with the blight-resistant Chinese chestnut. One group of highly backcrossed blight-resistant chestnuts is called hybrid 15/16 B3F3, which is 15/16 (94%) Castanea dentata and 1/16 (6%) Castanea mollissima. This hybrid is currently in the testing phase, and TCF donated a few of these nuts to Missouri Botanical Garden for testing and for educating the public about the American chestnut. They are currently growing in the Garden's Oertli Family Hardy Plant Nursery and will be planted in the new visitor center landscape. ■

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Crusader for Care

Tim Dolan has spent nearly three decades fighting for long-term care options for Missourians.

By Melissa Mauzy

More than six million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Locally, the Greater Missouri chapter of the Alzheimer's Association supports more than 120,000 in our region. The number of older adults diagnosed and living with dementia diseases has drastically increased. The need for safe and supportive care facilities as well as resources and support for families of those diagnosed with dementia has never been greater.

Tim Dolan has dedicated much of his adult life to fighting for better care for these individuals and their families. A pioneer in Alzheimer's care pushing to change state legislation to create more innovative long-term care options for Missourians, Dolan has altered the perception of the disease while fostering better resources for all.

Dolan's passion for reform came after searching for long-term care facilities for family and being stunned by the lack of options available. Traditional facilities were not patient friendly with long hallways, nurses stations and locked-down wings. He decided that he could do better. "Everything we have we owe to our elderly," he says. "They laid the foundation for us today."

Dolan's vision was to build small households within residential communities to accommodate 10 or fewer residents. In patients with memory impairment, a smaller setting within a community where residents can visit neighbors, spend time

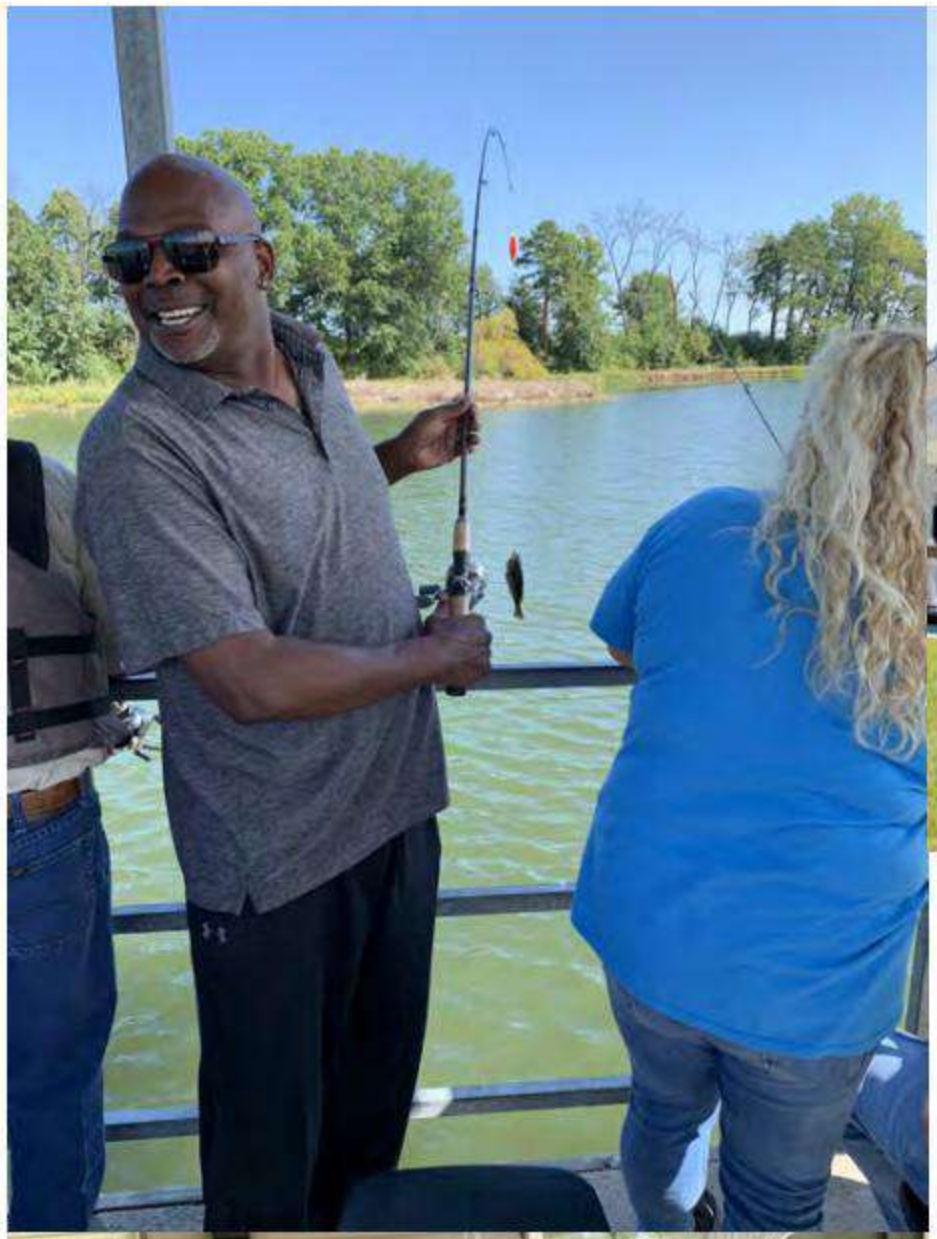
outside and go on walks is more effective in managing the disease. He researched all he could about environmental design and care techniques to develop a new model of care and collaborated with a facility in Ohio that was beginning to change the way things were done.

In 1993, Dolan found a piece of property and began rehabbing the home to fit his new care model called Dolan Residential Care. Within two weeks the home was full of committed residents. However, before anyone could move into Dolan's second project, it came to a halt. He didn't anticipate the lack of awareness that existed with the illness within the community. After nearly four years of legal battles, he was victorious in being allowed to proceed with his residential building.

While his company was successful in moving forward, legislation in Missouri was making it difficult for alternative care options to provide for residents dealing with memory impairment. Not only were lobbyists able to put a halt to adding new beds built in St. Louis without a certificate of need, but the nursing home industry aimed to block new-age care facilities by implementing rules in order to stay in a residential care facility. If residents couldn't make a pathway to safety they were required to be discharged to a nursing home.

Dolan forged ahead through the roadblocks by fighting for changes to legislation in Jefferson City. First, he was one of two facilities in the area chosen to be part of a pilot program designed to investigate new care techniques and new environmental designs to care for people suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia. Through this program he was able to develop three state-of-the-art households that included numerous innovative techniques for the cognitively impaired.

Dolan also testified at various senate meetings and eventually



partnered with Senator Bill Stouffer on his Senate Bill 616, which would create another category of licensure for care facilities that would be called "assisted living option." It created a plan for evacuation so that residents who couldn't make a path to safety could stay in smaller care environments. It took three years to pass, but the bill opened up opportunities for people to chose all different places for long-term care.

Following the passing of the bill, Dolan was honored to be selected by the governor to be a member of the Missouri State Alzheimer's Task Force representing long-term care in the state. The task force's duties were to identify how the disease affected Missourians and how the state could better serve the families of those affected with the disease.

Through it all, Dolan has persevered to make a difference in the lives of those affected by memory impairment. Dolan Memory Care Homes now has 17 households in the St. Louis area, including two subdivision communities with multiple residences. The person-centered care approach provides a safe, secure home where strengths are embraced and independence is encouraged. Residents are able to participate in their own care and to be involved in the day-to-day operations of the home through activities of daily living such as setting the table or helping to prepare meals.

Today, Dolan Memory Care Homes has become the gold standard in the industry, with others trying to emulate their care practice in their own cities. Through his decades long journey, Dolan is most proud of being able to make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling with this horrible disease by doing the best possible job he can do for those families, he says. "I think what we're doing here has really helped the industry recognize that there is more to taking care of people than just putting up a building and putting them in it," Dolan says. "There is a lot of thought that needs to go into taking care of folks and doing it right. We are pushing the envelope, and we are forcing people to get better." ■

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Places to go, things to do and see and people who are leaving their mark on the world of style.

By Moe Godat

Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market, Houston, TX

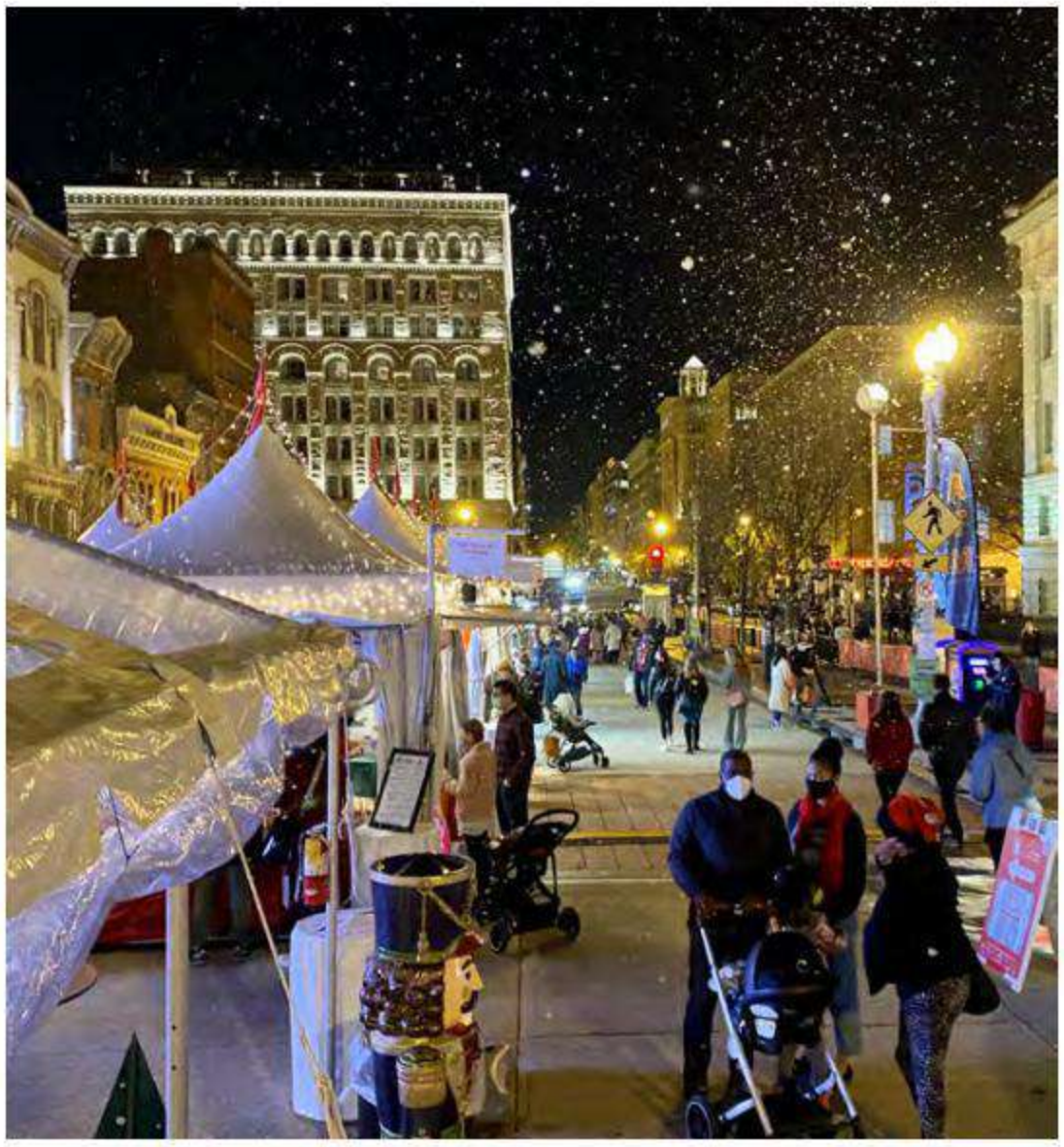
Photography courtesy of Nutcracker Market.

In 1981, a long-time Houston Ballet supporter by the name of Preston Frazier approached the board of the Houston Ballet Guild with an idea to help raise funds for the Houston Ballet Foundation, known for its academy and scholarship programs. After bringing his vision of sugar plums and community engagement to the guild, the historic city's prolific holiday market came into being to preserve the love of the arts in the area. Frazier helped instate the yearly Nutcracker Market, inspired by the famous Nutcracker Ballet. The market today functions much like a traditional European or Latin American street market having grown spectacularly from a small church setting to a four-day shopping extravaganza. Booths offer unique items and gifts for the entire family, including decor, food, clothing, accessories, toys and much more. Since 1981, the market has held both a winter and spring market, contributing over $75.3 million to arts education and scholarships to the Houston Ballet Academy's education and community engagement programs. This year, the market will celebrate its 40th anniversary from November 11 to November 14.

Christkindlmarket, Chicago, IL

Photography courtesy of Christkindlmarket.

First conceptualized in 1995 by The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), the Christkindlmarket in Chicago was a way to promote trade between the United States and Germany. It's first year of overwhelming success in 1996 began the Christkindlmarket's tradition as one of the United States most popular and authentic German holiday markets outside of Europe. The holiday market draws inspiration from the 16th century Christkindlesmarkt in Nuremberg, Germany, which was one of the first outdoor holiday markets in Europe. To emulate this historic German location and event, Chicago's Christkindlmarket provides high-quality food, gifts, local and Germanic traditions, holiday cheer and plenty of opportunities to create lasting memories with your family and friends. If you're interested in eating at the Heated Timber Haus, make a reservation on their website to secure a time. Now held yearly in Daley Plaza, it's considered one of the most popular winter attractions in the city, captivating both locals and visitors for the past 25 years. For the 2021 season, you can visit the Christkindlmarket from November 19 to December 24.



Downton Holiday Market, Washington DC

Photography courtesy of Downtown Holiday Market.

Dedicated to supporting local businesses and small vendors from the area, Washington DC's Downtown Holiday Market operates as an outdoor shopping village to attract locals and visitors alike. The Downtown DC Business Improvement District (BID) and Diverse Markets Management spearheads this annual holiday treat to welcome shoppers to a safe, secure and festive holiday experience in the heart of the District, two entire blocks of F Street NW. You can find its grand main entrance in front of the lauded National Portrait Gallery. The large footprint creates wide aisles, making the enjoyment of shopping, browsing, eating and experiencing live entertainment simpler and safer. This year, the retail and vendor lineup features more than 70 exhibitors, including Black- and minority-owned businesses. If the shopping isn't enough of an incentive to join, exceptional regional performers on a live stage should do the trick! Join the 17th Annual Downtown Holiday Market starting on Friday, November 19.

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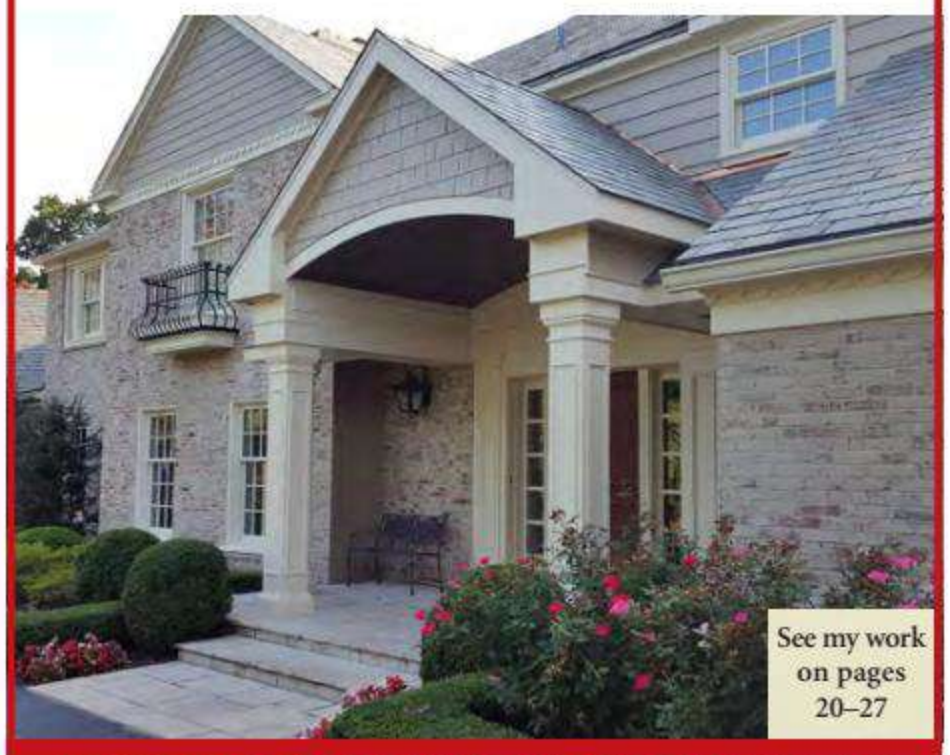

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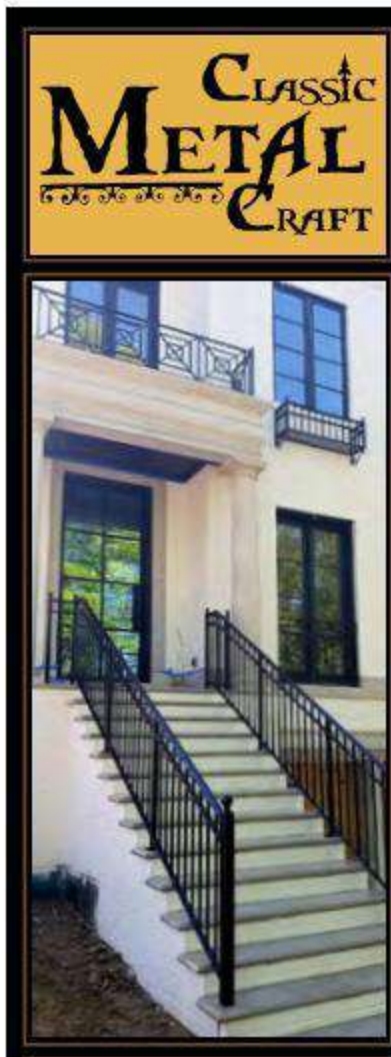

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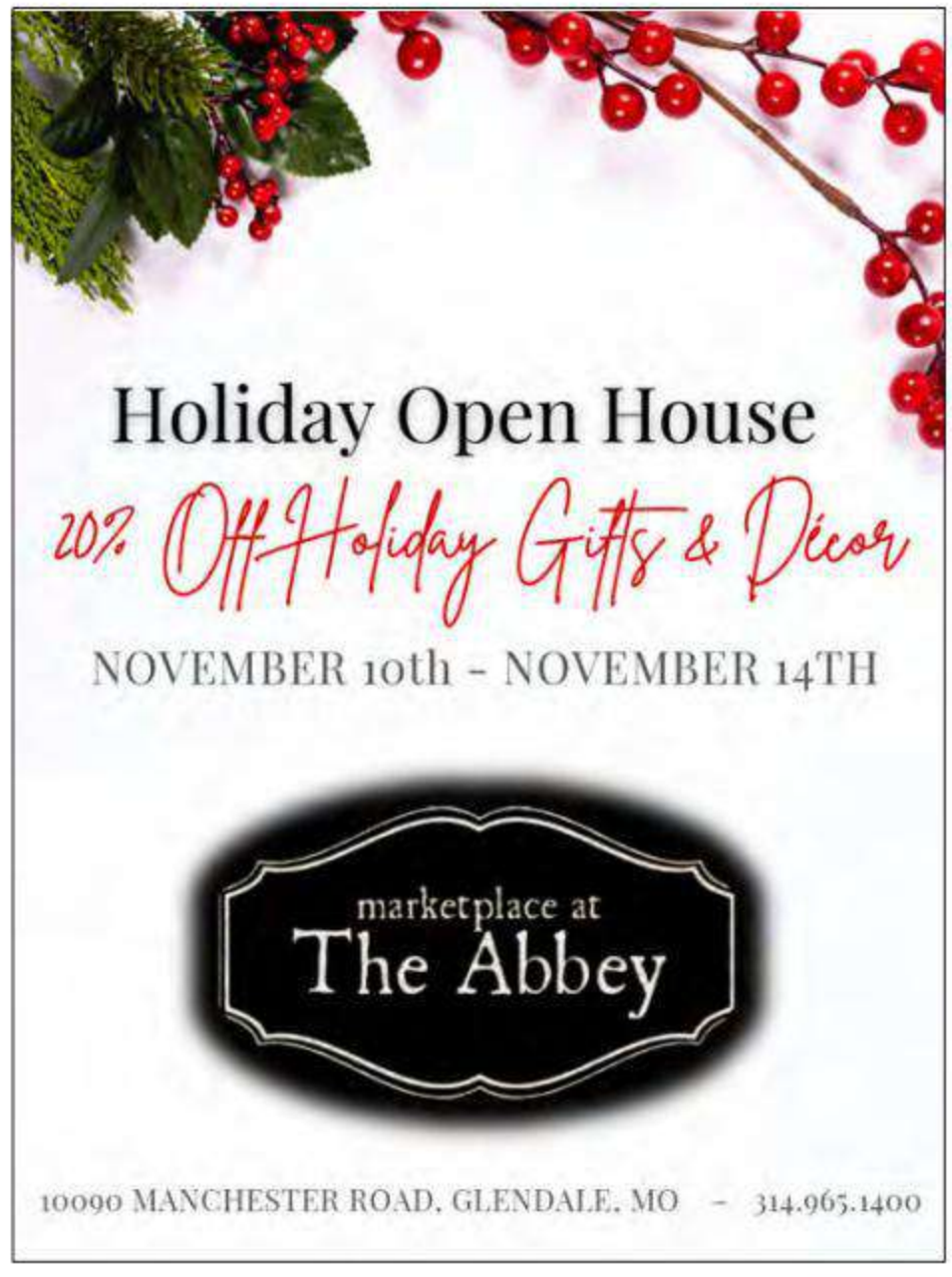

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Not a Bench Warmer

Dining benches appear in homes of every interior design style and family size. Will their popularity continue through this holiday season and beyond? Local design experts give their opinion on the longevity of dining benches in design.

Edited by Moe Godat
Photography courtesy of Anthropologie

Classic

I believe dining benches are a classic and do not see them going anywhere anytime soon. Adding a bench is an effortless way to give your space a contemporary flair while providing additional storage and seating that is needed during the holidays such as Thanksgiving or Christmas. Depending on the type of bench, it can help anchor a heavy table and allow your eye to move throughout the room. Dining benches are practical and functional for a lot of families and there are a multitude of styles that can work for any design. Savannah Sells, Youtopia Designs.

Dining benches are not just for parks and picnic tables anymore. Dining benches are gaining popularity among dining rooms and commercial spaces. There are a wide variety of dining benches such as wood or metal benches, church pews or upholstered pieces. Benches are a great option for children or adults to have a relaxed or an intimate dining experience. Dining benches are a great option and are here to stay. Barbara Collins, Barbara Collins Interior Design

Gathering around a table is always something of a commonality for families in our country. For me growing up with a large family, we always had a bench seat on one side of the table and chairs on the other, and we all wanted to sit on the bench seat. Where I come from, a small town with farmhouses galore, large families were the norm. Bench seats were a staple in all of those homes. Therefore, this is classic for me. I can adapt a bench seat for almost any style of a home. Anne Marie Boedges, Anne Marie Design Studio.

I think that dining benches are a fun alternative to your standard dining chair. They are great for kids and especially for "squeezing-in" an extra friend or two! I definitely think this is a classic that has fallen into trend recently. I don't see it going anywhere! Teddy Karl, The Great Cover-Up.

Craze

Dining benches' popularity seems to wane for a decade or two then surfaces again. Personally I think this trend of on again/off again will continue, but I also see its popularity fading for 2022. My belief is there are better options for dining seating due to the awkwardness of this style of seating. In my opinion, the form does not live up to the required function. Robert Idol, Idol Design.

Both

In my opinion, benches are on trend currently because they pair well with the farmhouse/rustic look trending right now. They are also great space savers and can be less expensive than two or three dining chairs. But I don't think they are good for personal space or comfort (no back support on some), and they also can be hard to get out of if you are sitting in the middle. Shannon Urnes, Forshaw of St. Louis.

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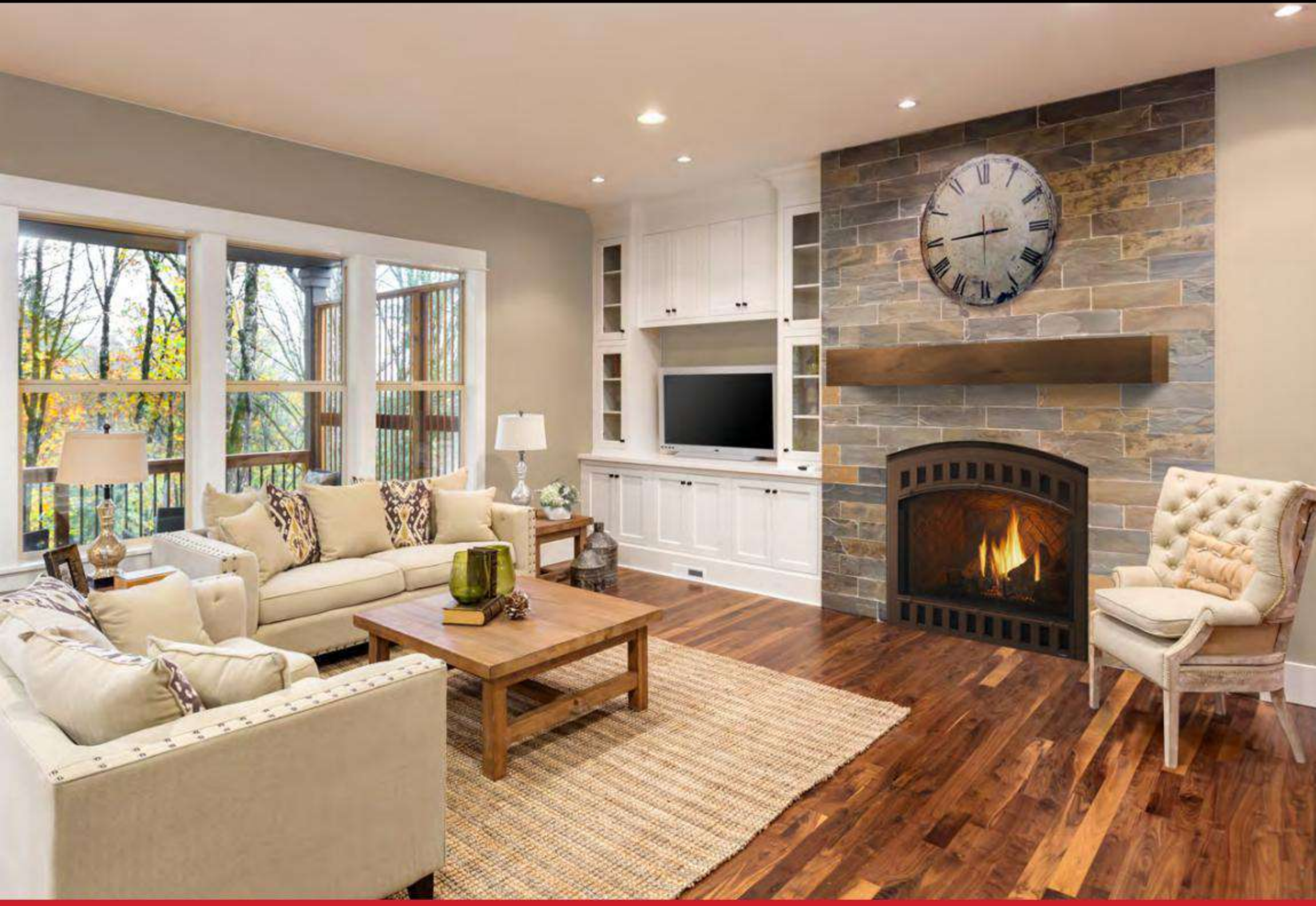

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